



City of Tucson Development Services

Citizen Sign Code Committee

Summary Minutes

Minutes Approved March 19, 2015

January 15, 2015

City Hall

255 W. Alameda Street

Tucson, AZ 85701

Mayor and Council Chambers

Members Present:

Dan Brocious, Jude Cook, Brent Davis, Sonya Sotinsky, Daniel Williams, Lee Oler, Joe Findysz, Kathi McLaughlin

Members Absent:

Stephen French, John O'Dowd, George Holguin

Staff Present:

Glenn Moyer, Planning & Development Services
Sue Montes, Planning & Development Services
Stacy Stauffer, City Attorney's Office
Brian Wiese, Planning & Development Services

Summary Minutes

Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.

Introduction of Staff and Guests. Staff and guests were introduced.

Approval of October 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Brocious made a motion to approve the December 2014 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sotinsky. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Call to the audience. Mr. Mayer spoke regarding Sign Code Violations. He said in the last four years not 1 penny has been collected in sign code violations. This needs to be rectified. We have ordinances and they need to be enforced. Our tax dollars are paying for inspectors to go out to these repeat offenders and they are not given any fines. Top violators seem to be by a number of corporations.

Summary of recent SCAAB cases. Mr. Moyer explained that the TCC is in a 2 month continuance. When the case is heard in February it will be joined by a Mr. Carwash.

Sign Code Administration. Mr. Moyer said the Sign Code Administration issues right now are H & R Block and Code Enforcement.

Billboard Review Committee Update. Mr. Mayer gave an update on the Billboard Review Committee, which is composed of representatives of different fields and was formed in 2004. They are making sure existing laws and codes are implemented. There is a 65 million dollar road improvement project on Houghton Road, and one completed section has 2 huge billboards. The Arizona State Land

Department has requested that Clear Channel work out something with the City. The Land Department can terminate the existence of these billboards.

Political Signs in public rights-of-way. The Arizona Revised Statutes for Political Signs creates a season that ties the City's hands for removing these political signs. Mr. Wyneken said he got some complaints for the primary election, and not very many for the general election. Code Enforcement gave 2 major parties diagrams of where political signs were ok to be placed, and also called after the election and told them they had 15 days to remove the signs. Mr. Davis would like to come up with an agreement for political parties that the political signs are not allowed in the median. Ms. McLaughlin said anything that is between 2 lanes of traffic that is a distraction should not be allowed to be there. Mr. Brocious thinks the intentions are good, but does not think it could be a legally binding agreement. Once one violates, the others will follow.

Study Session: Feather Banners. Mr. Davis said the Sign Code Committee believes we should enforce the code. He explained a recent T-Mobile situation. T-Mobile sends stores packages of balloons, A-frames and stick people to use for advertisement at their stores. What would it take to get enforcement to be able to ticket sign violators instead of it going to a judge for him to enforce a fee? Mr. Williams said when we talk about temporary signs we talk about code enforcement. When we talk about permanent signs we talk about code changes. Mr. Mayer said with a parking ticket you can pay it or go to court. With the signs they get a visit from the inspector and they will take down the sign for a little while. These repeat offenders are where the fines should come into play. Mr. Brocious asked if any fines collected for sign code violations go back to enforcement? Mr. Moyer said that money goes into the general fund.

Study Session: Update Regulations for EMC's. The EMC memo dated November 20, 2014 was discussed by item. Mr. Davis went over each item with our newest member Ms. Sotinsky to get her opinion on each item. Ms. Sotinsky felt there should be no limit on item 1. Item 2 she felt should be treated the same as any other sign. Items 3, 4, and 5 she was ok with. Item 6 she felt anywhere a sign is ok. Items 7 and 8 she agreed with. Item 9 she felt the same as any other sign. Items 10, 11, and 12 she agreed with. Safety and enforcement continued to be discussed.

Future Agenda Items. Future agenda items are to feather banners, EMC's, and enforcement for repeat offenders.

Adjournment. Mr. Findysz made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.